

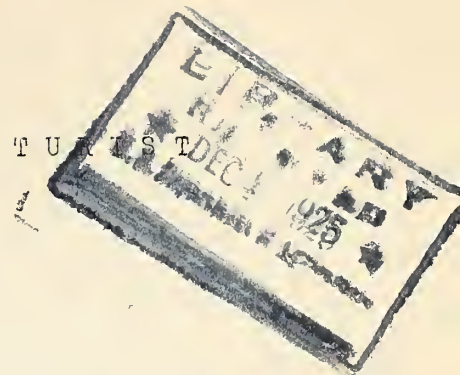
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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

December 1, 1925.



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* This number of the "Extension Horticulturist" *

* contains contributions from several of the State *

* specialists. December will be a good time for others *

* to look around to find out if they have anything worth *

* giving to the horticultural fraternity. If you have *

* send it in. You are doubtless now at headquarters *

* writing your annual report. While you are writing *

* your annual report, tell all about your lines of *

* work and results. Give facts and figures and in- *

* clude everything. Many of the reports of the past *

* have told only a small part of the story. *

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Office of Horticultural Investigations
and Extension Service Cooperating
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Second Preliminary Seed Standardization Conference
held in Washington November 6, 1925.

The second preliminary conference for the discussion of ways and means of standardizing the production and handling of vegetable seeds was held in the office of Mr. R. M. Hudson, Chief of the Division of Simplified Practice of the Department of Commerce on November 6, and was attended by representatives of the American Seed Trade Association, the National Cannery Association, the Vegetable Growers Association of America, and by workers in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce. The results of variety surveys of both general market and canning crops were submitted, but it was felt that these surveys were not sufficiently complete and that a further effort should be made to secure more definite information from the State workers, the seedsmen, the canners and individual vegetable growers. A motion made by Mr. Woodbury of the National Cannery Laboratory was adopted as follows:

"This conference, representing the U. S. Department of Commerce, the American Seed Trade Association, the National Cannery Association, the Vegetable Growers' Association of America, and the horticulturists of the agricultural experiment stations, and recognizing the economic waste to consumer, grower, canner, and seedsman involved in the present confusion in vegetable nomenclature and in the lack of authoritative definitions of varieties Recommends

"That the U. S. Department of Agriculture be asked to prepare such authoritative definitions of the varieties offered by the trade, beginning with the varieties included on the list to be appended, which have been determined as being of outstanding importance."

A second motion, by Mr. Landreth of the Landreth Seed Company, seconded by Mr. Coulter of the D. M. Ferry Seed Company and unanimously adopted, reads:

"The conference further recommends that the American Seed Trade Association and others interested join in future conferences with the Department of Commerce to determine the means by which the interest of seedsmen, distributors, and consumers may be centered, if possible, on a smaller list of varieties in order that the expense in seed production and distribution may be reduced and the quality of seeds improved."

Immediately following the conference a check list of varieties was prepared and mailed to about 70 of the State specialists in horticulture, to 100 members of the Vegetable Growers Association of America, and to approximately 150 seedsmen throughout the United States.

Carefully prepared replies are now being received from the State specialists to whom the list was first sent. It is urged that all those who



have received these lists give them very careful consideration and return them to us at the earliest possible moment, as we have promised to furnish a reasonably complete report not later than January 1, and it will be necessary for us to get the replies at an early date in order to do this. We feel that the matter is one of so great importance to everybody connected with the vegetable industry that everyone can well afford to give the matter serious thought and attention.

It was pointed out in the conference, by Dr. Shoemaker of this office, that while there are approximately 1,000 actual varieties of vegetables over 14,000 names are listed in the American seed trade catalogues. According to the statement of some of the leading seedsmen who attended the conference, the elimination not only of synonymous names, but of all little used varieties from catalogue lists, will prove a great saving to everybody concerned. Your cooperation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

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Dust Spraying the Home Orchard.

The spraying of the home orchard is still the most perplexing problem connected with home fruit growing. The hand duster is being used in a good many home orchards even in spraying trees so large that it is necessary for the operator to stand on a step ladder to spray the tree tops. Mr. Mason, Extension Fruit Specialist of New Jersey, contributes the following experience of J. G. Mears, Hohokus, Bergen County, New Jersey, as a result of four dustings, - pink bud, petal fall, 10 day and about July 1:

"I think I can best state the results obtained in figures. From my three Fall Pippin trees, I picked about 60 baskets of A No. 1 fine fruit. They did not bear any more heavily than they have done in the past, but this is the first time that I have been able to get more than 10 or 12 baskets of good fruit from the 3 trees, as the rest of the fruit was usually on the ground by picking time. I picked from one tree of McIntosh 15 baskets of A No. 1 fruit, and the proportion here is just about the same as on the Fall Pippins. I have one early Harvest apple and this year had much fruit to use and much more to give away as a result of the dusting, when heretofore, from this tree, I usually had a few dropped apples to use, and no more.

I do not see how a person who has 15 apple trees, such as I have, can get along without the dusting. It has been absolutely impossible for me to spray or get someone to do it adequately for me, while with the dusting I can handle the job myself and get excellent results, such as I have mentioned.

Quite a number of the members of the local garden club visited my place during the season and were very much interested in the results of the dusting and are fully expecting to do the same thing with their trees next year."

Protection of Young Fruit Trees.

Several reports have been received of injury to young fruit trees by rabbits, and it might be well for extension horticulturists, if they have not already done so, to issue a word of warning to owners of young orchards relative to the protection of trees. This early injury appears to be due to unusually cold weather that has prevailed in a number of sections. Cheap roofing paper which contains no tar, cut into narrow strips and fastened around the trees with short pieces of string makes a good protector. Closely woven galvanized wire is a better form of protector, but is more expensive.

Apple Tree Survey.

The figures in the table below were supplied by County Agent J. W. Dayton to Mr. W. H. Thies, Extension Fruit Specialist. It is interesting to know that 40 per cent of the apple trees in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, are Baldwins:

Apple Tree Survey on 516 Farms in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Variety	: Trees 1 to 10	: Trees 10 to 25	: Trees 25 yrs.	: Totals	:
	: years	: years.	: or older.	:	:

	: Number	: Average:	: Number	: Average:	: Number
	: : per	: : per	: : per	: : per	: : per
	: : farm	: : farm	: : farm	: : farm	: : farm
	: : *	: : *	: : *	: : *	: : *
Baldwin	: 22,393	: 43	: 11,319	: 22	: 38,134
Ben Davis	: 560	: 1	: 958	: 2	: 381
Delicious	: 4,107	: 8	: 195	: -	: -
Gravenstein	: 6,671	: 13	: 3,382	: 7	: 2,669
McIntosh	: 24,472	: 47	: 7,481	: 15	: 863
Oldenburg	: 3,740	: 7	: 829	: 2	: 130
Red	:	:	:	:	:
Astrachan	: 2,283	: 5	: 994	: 2	: 630
Wealthy	: 7,356	: 14	: 3,138	: 6	: 302
Williams	: 1,323	: 3	: 710	: 1	: 1,045
Yellow Trans-	:	:	:	:	:
parent	: 3,558	: 7	: 1,817	: 4	: 136
Other Fall	:	:	:	:	:
Varieties	: 5,916	: 12	: 2,248	: 5	: 3,347
Other Winter	:	:	:	:	:
Varieties	: 7,515	: 15	: 3,076	: 6	: 4,254
Total all	:	:	:	:	:
Varieties	: 89,893	: 172	: 36,145	: 70	: 51,891
					: 100
					: 177,929
					: 342
					: 100.0

*The figures in these columns are given to the nearest whole number. A fraction of a tree less than one-half is omitted and a fraction one-half or more is called a whole tree.

It is interesting to note the dropping off in popularity of Baldwin in the past 25 years. Of the apple trees 25 or more years old in this table 73 per cent are Baldwin. Of those between 10 and 25 years old 31 per cent are Baldwin. Of those from 1 to 10 years old only 25 per cent are Baldwin. McIntosh is outranking Baldwin in the plantings 10 years old or less, there being 47 McIntosh trees per farm orchard and 43 Baldwin trees per farm orchard. Gravenstein and Wealthy have been planted more in recent years than formerly and may be supplanting Baldwin somewhat even though not of the same season as Baldwin.

Spraying 55 Home Orchards.

In the town of Barnstable, Mass., very few of the home orchards were sprayed until recently. Kerr Bros., decided that the orchards should be sprayed so bought a power sprayer and sprayed 55 home orchards at a reasonable price. They also did some pruning and fertilizing. Their report to Mr. W. H. Thies, Extension Fruit Specialist, follows:

Number of trees sprayed once (calyx spray) 8,621; trees sprayed twice or more 1,379; trees pruned 1,379; trees fertilized with nitrate of soda 485; distance of farthest orchard from home two miles. These men have performed a real service in their community. Furthermore, Kerr Bros., have utilized the surplus fruit of these orchards in their small canning factory. Has any other specialist a similar experience to report?

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Home Garden Contest in Louisiana.

The following letter from Mr. H. W. Fristoe, Garden Specialist, Extension Service, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will doubtless be of special interest to our southern readers:

"I have just returned from the Shreveport Fair and thought you might be interested in knowing that we had some outstanding exhibits this year, entered by communities through community leaders, composed of vegetables grown by our year-round home garden contestants.

You will remember that I came to this State a little over a year ago from Mississippi. One of the first pieces of work I started was a contest similar to the one I started in that State. At present we have somewhere between 13,000 and 15,000 homes in this contest. They are receiving a monthly sheet of suggestions similar to the sheets I issued for the Mississippi folks. We have in this State a little over 1,700 in a contest being conducted by the Southern Ruralist. We happen to lead the South in enrollment in fact, our enrollment is as much as the second and third states combined.

Any suggestions from time to time that you might have to offer that you gather in going around over the country would be appreciated.

We are adding this year, or at least putting back in our program of work after a lapse of several years, a peach project with the boys and girls. If you happen to know of any States doing any outstanding work in this line, I would appreciate it if you would have them send me any bulletins, forms, or suggestions that they have issued."

While engaged in the work in Mississippi, Mr. Fristoe established in cooperation with the home demonstration agents a contest which had for its object the maintaining of home vegetable gardens throughout the year, the aim being to have at least two fresh vegetables available in the garden every day in the year. This contest in Mississippi was a decided success and it is extremely interesting to get the report from Mr. Fristoe in which he advises us that similar work is now under way in Louisiana. If anyone has a suggestion in line with the last paragraph of Mr. Fristoe's letter kindly either send it direct to him or to us.

RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF VITAMINS IN FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS.

	"A"	"B"	"C"		"A"	"B"	"C"
Apples	x	x	x	Chard Swiss	xx	x	*
Avocado (Alligator pear) .	x	xx	*	Cress	*	*	x
Banana	xttox	x	x	Cucumber	-tox	x	x
Cranberry	*	*	x	Dandelion greens . . .	xx	x	x
Grape juice	*	x	x	Eggplant	-	x	x
Grapefruit	x	xx	xxx	Endive	x	*	x
Guava	*	*	x	Kohl-rabi	*	*	x
Lemon juice	x	xx	xxx	Lentils	x	xx	*
Lime "	*	x	x	Lettuce	xx	xx	xx
Orange "	x	xx	xxx	Mushrooms	-	xx	*
Paypa (Pawpaw)	xx	x	xx	Okra	*	xx	*
Peach juice	*	*	xtxxx	Onion	-	xx	xx
Pears	*	x	*	Parsley	*	xx	*
Persimmon (Chinese) . . .	*	-	x	Parsnips	-tox	xx	*
Pineapple	x	x	xx	Peas, fresh green . . .	xx	xx	x
Prunes dried	xx	x	-	Potatoes sweet (yellow)	xx	x	xx
Raisins	-	x	-	" white	x	xx	xx
Raspberries	*	*	xx	Pumpkin	xx	*	x
Strawberries	*	x	xx	Radish	-	x	*
Tomatoes	xx	xxx	xxx	Spinach	xxx	xxx	xx
Artichokes (Jerusalem) . .	*	x	*	Squash (Hubbard) . . .	xx	*	*
Artichokes (Globe) . . .	xx	x	*	Turnips	-	xx	xx
Asparagus	*	xxx	*	Almonds	x	xx	*
Beans kidney	x	xxx	*	Brazil nuts	?	xx	*
" navy	*	xxx	-	Butternuts	?	xx	*
" soy	x	xxx	-	Chestnuts	*	xx	*
" string	xx	xtxxx	xx	Coconut	x	xx	*
Beets (root)	-tox	x	x	Filberts	*	xx	*
Cabbage fresh green . . .	xttox	xx	xxx	Hickory nuts	*	xx	*
" " white	-to x	xx	xxx	Peanuts	x	xx	*
Carrots (young)	xx	xx	xx	Pecans	x	xx	*
Cauliflower	-to x	xx	x	Walnuts black	*	xx	*
Celery	*	xx	*	Walnuts English	x	xx	*

x .. contains the vitamin
 xx .. good source of the vitamin
 xxx .. excellent source of the vitamin
 - .. no appreciable amount of the vitamin

? ..doubt as to presence or relative amount
 * .. evidence lacking or insufficient
 v .. variable

A deficiency of "A" in the diet may result in a disease of the eyes as well as lack of normal development.

A deficiency of "B" may result in the loss of appetite and symptoms of a disease of the nerves called beri-beri.

A deficiency of "C" may result in symptoms of scurvy.

The above table was compiled by Miss Sybil Smith of the Office of Experiment Stations and contains the latest information on vitamins in fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Personal Mention.

During the recent conference on Vegetable Variety Standardization in Washington, Prof. T. C. Johnson, Director of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station, was a caller at the Department.

Prof. G. S. Ralston, formerly in the extension work in Virginia and who is now connected with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Produce Exchange, has been heard from relative to some of the problems that confront the vegetable growers of the Eastern Shore. Prof. Ralston continues to take an active interest in the extension work.

Prof. Close is leaving the office December 1, for a trip to points in Missouri and Arkansas, where he will attend the meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society at Springdale, Missouri, December 3 and 4, and the American Pomological Society in Kansas City December 8 to 10. Prof. Close will return to Washington about December 15.

Mr. Beattie will attend the meeting of the Connecticut Vegetable Growers Association December 2 and 3 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Mr. C. A. Garner, formerly of this office and now with the Horticulture Department of the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, has issued short news items on the proper storage of vegetables as a means of adding to the returns of the garden. This information is written in the form of short, attractive paragraphs.

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Horticultural Extension Literature Received During November, 1925.

Iowa State College, Ames

Twice as Many Potatoes Per Acre. Ext. Bul. 128, Oct., 1924

Minnesota - University of - St. Paul

Points on Potatoes. Ext. Folder No. 10

Missouri - University of - Columbia

Cluster-Bud Spray for Apples. Cir. 142, March, 1925.

Fourth and Fifth Summer Sprays for Apples. Cir. 147, May, 1925

Tomato Plant-Bed Spraying. Leaflet 23, April, 1925.

New York College of Agriculture, Ithaca

Hill-Unit Selection of Potatoes. Bul. 125. June, 1925.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis

Grafting and Budding. Ext. Bul. 384, September, 1925.

Pennsylvania State College, State College

The Preparation of Cider Vinegar. Leaflet No. 21, Oct., 1924

Vermont - University of - Burlington

Small Fruits for Vermont, Brieflet No. 183

Varieties of Fruit for Orchard and Garden. Brieflet No. 184

Suggestions for Improvement of Grounds and Towns. Brieflet No. 185

Apple Thinning a desirable Practice. Brieflet No. 186.

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W. R. Beattie,

C. P. Close,

